

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

## Researchers Focus On Bringing Back Missing Bees

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STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Scientists are trying to solve a mystery critical to the future of American agriculture: Why are honeybee hives failing at a disturbing high rate?

Some researchers are studying whether pesticides and other chemicals used in fields and gardens might affect honeybees, as well as bumblebees and other insects that pollinate crops. Other research is focusing on building more habitat — planting trees, shrubs and flowers that pollinators prefer.

Bees are vital to U.S. agriculture because they pollinate many flowering crops, including almonds, apples and blueberries. Bee pollination is responsible for \$15 billion annually in crop value.

Honeybees, a non-native species from Europe, are the pollinators of choice because they are easier to manage and are more plentiful — a single colony can contain 20,000 workers. By comparison, a bumblebee colony may have only a couple of hundred worker bees.

The honeybees have taken a hit over the years from mites and, most recently, colony collapse disorder, in which beekeepers have found affected hives devoid of most bees. Bees that remain appear much weaker than normal.

Beekeepers in 2006 began reporting losing 30 percent to 90 percent of their hives. Since then the annual loss rate has been roughly 33 percent, according to government estimates.

The first case of colony collapse disorder was officially reported in Pennsylvania, and Penn State University has been spearheading research.

"We realize it's much more complicated than what we thought a year ago," Frazier said recently. "From what we know now, it's not something we'll figure out very, very quickly."

Native pollinators also are being monitored. The National Academy of Sciences in 2006 found declining populations of several bee species, along with other native pollinators like butterflies, hummingbirds and bats.

The report suggested landowners can take small steps to make sure habitats are more "pollinator friendly," like by growing more native plants.

And that's what scientists appear to be doing on a larger scale across the country in hopes of bringing bees back.

At the Environmental Research Institute at Eastern Kentucky University, apiculturalist Tammy Horn oversees an experiment in apiforestation, a term the school describes as a "new form of reclamation focused on planting pollinator-friendly flowers and trees."

The project is in its first year. Horn is working with local coal companies to plant trees, shrubs and native wildflowers on reclaimed lands, rather than the once-typical scenario of planting only high-value hardwoods to establish a timber industry.

There are years of study still to go, though there are no signs of colony collapse disorder so far, Horn said.

Local support from residents and coal companies has been encouraging to Horn. It helps that locals have family ties to beekeeping, with parents and grandparents perhaps dabbling in the hobby before it started to become less popular locally.

"That's been important for my project to succeed," Horn said in a phone interview. "Even people who don't care about beekeeping show up to (beekeeping workshops) in eastern Kentucky and know it's important."

Karen Goodell, an ecology professor at Ohio State University, has been trying to find the right mix of plants and trees to build native bee populations. Her project is housed at The Wilds, a nonprofit conservation center on nearly 10,000 acres (4,050 hectares) of reclaimed mine land in rural southeastern Ohio.

"The more of these pollinator-friendly areas we have... the more likely we are able to retain bee species," said Goodell. Her work deals with native bees, which she said could also end up helping farmers.

"Those populations would then be contributing to colonizing areas that have lost bees because of poor management," Goodell said. "Definitely, these bees will be playing a role in pollination services."

## FROM DAYS GONE BY

### 20 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 5, 1989

'89 The New Year's Baby — traditionally, it is the first baby born during the New Year at the Fulton County Medical Center. But things happened a little differently this year and the New Year's Baby wasn't exactly born at the Medical Center and it wasn't exactly delivered by the family physician. The stork didn't bring it either. Mark Andrew Souders, son of Darrin L. and Dawn (Bivens) Souders, came barreling into the world in the Needmore Fire Co.'s ambulance somewhere off Jordan Road, close to Route 522. And he was greeted by emergency medical technicians Martha Ackroyd and Lisa Mellott, who very ably delivered him with the assistance of Ed Calhoun, also an EMT with the Needmore Fire Co. Officially, the child was born at 12:58 a.m. on Monday. He weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 17 inches. Although he didn't officially come into this world at the Fulton County Medical Center, Mark Andrew Souders is officially the Fulton County Medical Center's New Year's Baby and on Monday he received the usual gifts that go with the title.

A Fulton County woman gave birth to the New Year's Baby at Chambersburg Hospital at 11:27 a.m. on Sunday, January 1. Lisa (Lininger) Hughes and her husband, Vince of McConnellsburg, are the proud parents of a baby daughter, Renee. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

Master Sgt. Stephen P Houck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Houck, has enjoyed a 10-day leave while his mother is recuperating from a stroke. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1968 and is now stationed at Yakota Air Force Base in Japan.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heidler II of Harrisonville on December 24; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. James Strait of Warfordsburg on December 29.

Marriage licenses: James Raleigh III, Mercersburg, and Jana McQuade, McConnellsburg; Alvin Peck, McConnellsburg, and Janet Bailey, McConnellsburg; Robert Weaver, Petersburg, W.Va., and Gail Clugston, McConnellsburg; Darren Hendershot, McConnellsburg, and Annette Bookheimer, McConnellsburg.

Deaths: Ralph Thumma, Longwood, Fla.; Edna Wagner, Wells Tannery; Thomas Jenkins, Galeton, Pa.; Waid Smith Sr., Big Cove Tannery; Walter Snyder, Winfield; Herman Clingerman, Warfordsburg.

Ellen Mellott of Needmore is proud to announce the engagement of her daughter, Lesa Ann, to James Smola, son of James and Sally Smola of Silver Spring, Md.

### 30 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 4, 1979

'79 The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, a private, nonprofit conservation organization, has received a gift of 98 acres of land near Route 30 west of McConnellsburg from golfer Arnold Palmer and Latrobe contractor John M. Ridilla. This gift, an important indenture in State Game Lands 53, will be conveyed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Earlier this year, the Conservancy acquired a similar 1,275-acre indenture in Game Lands 53 and conveyed it to the Game Commission. In a statement, Palmer and Ridilla said they were pleased to donate the Fulton County land to the Conservancy. The tract stretches along the eastern rim of Meadow Grounds Mountain and is entirely forested with red oak, black oak, chestnut oak and hickory. The gift of land will serve as a buffer to protect the entire gamelands from new developments. This land was formerly owned by the Wellesly H. Greathead heirs and was sold in 1960.

Six accidents were investigated by state police last week and though some injuries resulted, the county came through the holiday season fatality free.

Albert Foster, local attorney, remains a patient in Harrisburg Hospital undergoing therapy to combat the effects of a recent stroke.

Specials at the IGA: tangelos, 12 for 99 cents; french fries, 89 cents for 4 lbs.; Tetley tea bags, \$1.59, 100 count; Red Delicious apples, 79 cents for 3-lb. bag.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Morgan of Orbisonia on December 26; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Scott of Harrisonville on December 26; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sipes of Hustontown on December 22; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Swain of Hancock on December 23; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wisner of Mt. Union on December 23; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Curfman of Shirleysburg on December 23; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Billett of Needmore on December 26; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Dietrick of McConnellsburg on December 28; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Keebaugh of Harrisonville on December 27.

Engagement: Mrs. Mae Marlin of Three Springs is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Shelby Young to Mark Fraker of Fort Littleton, son of Joy and Ronnie Frkaer.

Deaths: Robert Lodge, McConnellsburg; Emmitt Brodbeck, Three Springs; Hazel Decker, Harrisonville; Phillip Mannetti, Waynesboro; Mrs. Helen McCulloh, Mercersburg; Levi Smith, Chambersburg; Betty Hancock, Mount Union.

### 40 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 16, 1969

'69 Stephen Grissinger, who just last week was featured in a front-page story in the Fulton County News as a Forbes Road winner of the Keystone Farmer Degree, is now a patient in the intensive care unit of Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia following emergency surgery on Friday for the removal of a blood clot from his brain. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Elden Grissinger of Dublin Mills. Stephen, a first-year student at the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture, fell on the ice while skating at school on Thursday, injuring his finger. While having this minor wound repaired in the school dispensary, he fainted, hitting his head and causing an injury which required four sutures. He later collapsed into a coma and was rushed to the Temple hospital where surgery was performed on Friday. Listed as critical, Stephen has not been allowed to have any visitors.

Eliza A. Cook of Sheepskin Hollow, believed to be Fulton County's oldest resident, will celebrate her 98th birthday on Thursday. Mrs. Cook resides with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jere L. Cook.

The Reality Theatre in Robertsedale was recently reopened after being closed for more than 10 years. Gary E. Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stevens of McConnellsburg, recently graduated from the Triangle

School of Drafting in Pittsburgh with a diploma in architectural drafting and construction.

Engagement: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ray of McConnellsburg wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Marsha Jean, to James Edward Bornman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emerson E. Bornman of Summerdale, Pa.

Cecil Williams of McConnellsburg, vocational agriculture teacher at James Buchanan High School, was one of three agriculture teachers in Pennsylvania who received the honorary Keystone Degree on January 15 at the 40th annual convention of the PA Association of Future Farmers of America. The award was presented during the Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Men in service: Technical Sgt. David L. Jobe, whose wife, Opal, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry P Booth of Warfordsburg, has been recognized for his outstanding accomplishments during the 1968 hurricane season as a member of the famed U.S. Air Force "Hurricane Hunters." Army Pvt. First Class Richard A. Black, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Black of McConnellsburg, was assigned on December 19 to the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam as a rifleman. Army Spec. Four Joseph D. Helsel, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Helsel of Wells Tannery, received the Bronze Star medal on December 3 near Pleiku, Vietnam. Sgt. Larry L. Barnhart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy G. Barnhart of Warfordsburg, is a member of a unit that has earned the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Army Pvt. First Class Charles L. Clevenger, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Olive Cisney of McConnellsburg, was assigned on December 19 to the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam as a rifleman.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Williams of Warfordsburg on January 10; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barnett of McConnellsburg on January 8; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Preston Weller of Warfordsburg on January 7.

Deaths: Mrs. Wesley A. Fyfe of Windber, the former Elizabeth Whalley, Windber; Daniel E. Rotz, Hancock; Mrs. Laura B. Chilcote, Palmyra; C. Bruce Paylor, McConnellsburg.

### 50 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 15, 1959

'59 Sgt. Lester Hoover of the local state police substation reported this week that the accident rate in Fulton County rose in 1958. Last year, state police investigated 153 accidents in which 106 people were injured and 13 killed. The year before, there were 131 accidents with 110 injured and five killed. June was listed as the worst month with 21 accidents, followed by August with 20 and July with 17.

Mrs. Clarence Bender entered Chambersburg Hospital on Sunday for observation and possible surgery. Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Washabaugh left on Sunday for a two-week vacation in Florida.

Miss Naomi Roetiger entered Chambersburg Hospital on Thursday for observation and treatment of a back ailment.

Mrs. Amy Mellott, who fell several weeks ago and broke her ankle, is able to get around a little with her leg in a temporary cast.

In order to settle the estate of the late editor of the "News," statements will have to be sent to all subscribers in arrears.

Mrs. Foster Cisney entered Chambersburg Hospital on Tuesday to undergo surgery.

Chester Brant, 75-year-old farmer of Harrisonville, is slated to be honored at the Farm Show today for 40 years of service as a volunteer crop reporter, one of 12 Keystone State farmers to be so honored.

The Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren has appointed Rev. Rodger Markey of York as minister of the Knobsville Mission for the coming year.

Paul Gordon has been elected president of the Fulton County Sportsmen's Club for 1959, with M.E. Sherman as vice president.

Maynard H. Bard and Maxine A. Fix were married on December 20.

Rev. Richard M. Simpson was re-elected on Friday as chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. The veteran Huntingdon legislator was unopposed.

State Senator J. Irving Whalley has been elected chairman of the Elections Committee, vice chairman of the Banking Committee and a member of nine other committees.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Umbrell of McConnellsburg on January 9; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Grant Souders of McConnellsburg on January 9.

Miss Alice Browand has returned to her home at Burnt Cabins after undergoing surgery at the Medical Center.

Mrs. Olive Kelly fell at her home at Burnt Cabins last week and fractured her arm.

Engagements announced: Nellie Jean Shives to Donald Reed Richards; Oneda Sophia Paylor to James M. Stahl; Patsy Fetterhoff to Richard Bivens; Frances Rotz to John Bathalov.

Ronald Dale Cisney and Eleanor Hess were married on November 28.

Deaths: SP-4 Robert Stewart Dunlap of Newville; Mrs. Annie Isabelle Ritchey of McConnellsburg; Mrs. Orval Lockard Anderson of Six Mile Run; Samuel G. Stevens of Six Mile Run; Sheridan C. Deshong of Hopewell.

### 60 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 20, 1949

'49 Rev. David R. Hoover of McConnellsburg and Postmaster Scott Rinedollar of Everett are attending the inauguration in Washington.

Stanley Strait, who recently underwent an operation for the removal of an eye at the Wills Hospital in Philadelphia, has returned to his home this week.

An appeal is made in this issue to help the Bethel Church in Bethel Township to find a stove. Somebody "borrowed" the stove there and services cannot be held until a new one is found.

John P. Sipes will be honored in the local Methodist Church on Sunday. On behalf of the Pennsylvania Sabbath School Association, Bruce Douglas, president of the county association, will present Sipes with an award in recognition of his 63 years as a Sunday School teacher — a record which, as far as can be determined, is not duplicated anywhere in the state.

Births: a daughter on January 13 to Mr. and Mrs. William Deshong of Harrisonville; a son on January 15 to Mr. and Mrs. John Carbaugh of Cito; a daughter on Jan-

### MEMORY JOGGER



This week's Memory Jogger, submitted by Ruth Reeder of McConnellsburg, was taken around 1944 and pictures Ruth and her brother, Carl Gordon.

uary 16 to Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson of McConnellsburg.

Edwin Dale Felter and Edna Mae Strait were married on January 6.

Military funeral services will be held on Saturday for Marvin C. McElhaney, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harmon E. McElhaney of Hustontown, who was instantly killed by enemy shrapnel at Hesselbroan, Germany, on August 18, 1945.

Other deaths: Mrs. Blanche Irene Walker, Chambersburg; Mrs. William Kennedy of McConnellsburg; Charles C. Spencer of Apopka, Fla.

### 70 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 19, 1939

'39 Deaths: Rev. Samuel D. McConnell, D.C., of Easton, Md., a descendant of Daniel McConnell, the founder of McConnellsburg, and the first contributor during the Sesqui-Centennial for a marker in memory of Daniel McConnell; Henry Austin Feight, Everett.

Max Lewis Stenger and Ruby Oliver Weller were married on January 7.

Trucks driven by Roy W. Gordon of McConnellsburg and Emerson F. Shriver of Martinsburg were damaged on a curve west of town when Gordon was trying to give the Shriver truck a "lift" on the slippery highway.

Lewis W. Monaco and Ruth N. Ranck were married on December 24.

Judge W.C. Sheely, addressing the local Woman's Club on Friday on the subject, "The Youth Problem as Relief to Crime," pointed out that crime among children is growing. He said the three methods used by judges in the handling of juvenile cases are sending them away to protect them, rehabilitation and punishment to deter the offenders. Judge Sheely cited the following as some of the causes of delinquency: broken homes, poor attitude, parents, cars and parents having too much activity out of the home.

A second snowstorm within a week swept over Fulton County yesterday, adding another five inches to last week's fall.

Contracts for the first stretch of South Penn Highway construction in Fulton County will be out on January 23, the News has been informed. The stretch will run from Rays Hill to Clear Ridge but will not include tunnel boring.

Mrs. Russell Glazier and W.H. Greathead are in Lewisburg this week as members of the jury in United States court.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Newingham attended the funeral of Mrs. Newingham's sister at Cresson on Monday.

About 50 students from the McConnellsburg High School attended the State Farm Show in Harrisburg on Monday.

Mrs. Harry Mort, who has been in the Waynesboro Hospital as the result of an automobile accident in December, had one of her legs amputated this week.

A birthday party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Souders of McConnellsburg on Tuesday evening in honor of the fifth birthday of their son, Rudy.

A baby girl was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Gallagher of Clear Ridge.

John C. Norris recently underwent a serious operation in the University Hospital in Baltimore.

Born: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. William Hines of Saluvia.

Mrs. Elsie Nesbitt of Burnt Cabins was admitted to Everett Hospital last week for an operation.

Don't forget the chicken and waffle supper at the Burnt Cabins Presbyterian Church on January 21. All-you-can-eat for 25 cents.

The Mellott Hotel here was equipped with an entirely new furnace system this week by N.H. Roettger.

### 80 Years Ago

From The Files Of January 17, 1929

'29 Deaths: William Z. Shue of near New Grenada; Michael Hockensmith of Bedford; Jacob Montgomery of Shade Gap, Huntingdon County's only centenarian; David Winegardner of near Dublin Mills; Daniel W. Suders of near Shippensburg; Mrs. Anna McQuait of Clear Ridge; George Wesley Mellott of near McConnellsburg; Daniel Fix of Brownsville; Lavina Long of Ayr Township; Mrs. John Walker of near Cito; Charles Robert Lynch of Laurel Ridge. Rev. Harry C. Moyer of Needmore, who received a fractured skull last week when he slipped through an open cellar door at the parsonage at Needmore.

Recent births: a son, Gerald Lee, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cutchall of near Webster Mills on December 27; a son, Walter R., to Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Barmont of Todd Township on December 25; a daughter, Mary Belle, to Mr.